



## Claims

I claim:

1. A system for effecting digital communications, said system comprising:

a sending subsystem comprising:

a message categorization means using information about the receiver in order to categorize the outgoing message

a presentation means of said categorization to the sender so that the message can be categorized

a receiving subsystem comprising:

a means of receiving a categorized message, and storing and indexing it according to said categorization.

2. The system in claim 1 where the categorization makes use of presence information.

3. The system in claim 1 where the presentation and selection of acceptable categories includes negotiation with an agent for the receiver.

4. The system of claim 1 where the presentation and selection of acceptable categories includes negotiation with an intermediary agent.

5. The system of claim 1 where the presentation and selection of acceptable categories includes negotiation with an agent for the receiver and an intermediary.

6. A system for effecting digital communication, said system comprising:

a negotiation subsystem comprising:

a means for the sender to configure a sending agent to negotiate a categorization, either automatically or with sender input

an agent for the receiver which negotiates with the agent for the sender in order to find a common ground between the senders expectation of categorization and the receivers current categorization

a sending subsystem comprising:

a presentation means for the sender in order to configure the sending agent and/or participate in the negotiation of categorization

a receiving subsystem comprising of:

a means of configuring the receiving agent so that it can negotiate categorization with the sending agent.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein the subsystems make use of presence information.

8. The system of Claim 6 where there are multiple receivers and/or multiple agents for receivers.

9. The system of Claim 6 where negotiation includes the use of one or more intermediaries.

10. A system of electronic communication comprising:

a negotiation subsystem comprising:

a means for the sender to configure a sending agent to negotiate a categorization, either automatically or with sender input

an intermediary agent which automatically mediates the categorization between the sender/sender agent and the receiver agent

an agent for the receiver which negotiates with the intermediary agent and/or the sender agent in order to find a common ground between the senders expectation of categorization and the receivers current categorization

a sending subsystem comprising of:

a presentation means for the sender in order to configure the sending agent and/or participate in the negotiation of categorization

a means for finding an intermediary agent

a receiving subsystem comprising of:

a means of configuring the receiving agent so that it can negotiate categorization with the sending agent.

11. The system of Claim 10 where presence information is used to help with categorization.

12. The system of Claim 10 where there are multiple receivers and/or multiple agents for receivers.

13. The system of Claim 10 where categorization involves one or more intermediaries.